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EDGAR SNOWDEN, JR.
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WAR NEWS.

A dispatch from Fortress Monroe, dated the 4th, says:—"A messenger has just arrived from Newbern, North Carolina, with dispatches to Major General Butler, dated February 2—5.15 P. M. The post at Newport is attacked, and the rebels have the railroad between Newport and Morehead City. The post at Evans's Mills is surrounded. Colonel Jordan still holds Morehead City, but may be forced to retire to Fort Macon. As long as we can keep the river open we are well enough off.—The rebels captured, by a surprise, the gunboat Underwriter, and destroyed her," but a later dispatch dated on the 5th says:—"The steamer Louisa Moore arrived here from Newbern to-day. She left there early yesterday morning, and brings a report from General Palmer to General Butler, that the rebel forces were retiring from before Newbern."

Dispatches to the Northern papers from Wheeling announce that the Federal forces had come up with the Confederates, "at a ford near Moorfield, in Hardy county," and that the Confederates "evidently intended to dispute the passage of the river. The Federal forces were in position and the artillery had just opened." A Wheeling dispatch dated yesterday says:—"Governor Boreman has received the following from General Kelley this morning: I have just received a dispatch from Colonel Mulligan. After six hours fighting he has driven Early from Moorfield, and his (Mulligan's) cavalry was pursuing and was sharply engaged with Rosser on the south fork at the date of the dispatch."

A dispatch from Mobile, on the 30th ult. says:—"A special dispatch from Okolona, Mississippi, says the 12th Mississippi entered Corinth this morning, and captured a quantity of arms, &c. The Yankees left as they entered."

A Morristown, Tenn., dispatch of the 30th ult., in the Richmond papers, says:—"General Martin attacked the enemy on the 28th, and, after a stubborn fight, drove them from the field. They retreated in the direction of Sevierville. The enemy's cavalry have undoubtedly been reinforced."

The Washington Star says:—"Several days ago Capt. Runney, of the 2d Mass., with a detachment of men, went on a reconnoissance towards White Plains and Rector Station, and captured 25 prisoners. A day or two previously Capt. Adams, of the 2d Mass., and Capt. McPherson, in command of a detachment of the 16th N. Y. cavalry, encountered a few Confederates at Mountsville, killing one and taking two prisoners, and having one man of 2d Mass., wounded. They then proceeded to Upperville, by way of Union and Bloomfield, taking a number of prisoners at Upperville and Middleburg. Many small parties of the enemy were seen watching the command on its way home."

A dispatch dated Baltimore February 5, says:—"There are no Confederates now known to be on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad; but there are rumors that General Kelley is fighting them in Hardy county, Virginia, successfully. There is great anxiety to hear results. The impression is the Confederates will make early movements this spring in order to surprise the Federal armies, which they suppose have been greatly weakened by terms of enlistment expiring, though they will be deceived in this."

In the Maryland Senate, Dr. Bayne, of Prince George's has offered resolutions to the effect that as thousands of fugitive slaves from Maryland, are now in Washington, Georgetown and Alexandria, it would be expedient to establish recruiting stations in those places to gather up these fugitives, compelling every slave from Maryland to enroll himself, and, thereupon a deed of manumission being given, the former owner (being loyal) may be entitled to compensation.

On Monday morning, at Louisville, the steamer D. G. Taylor took fire and was destroyed. The fire is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary. She was owned in St. Louis, and valued at \$32,000; insured for \$16,000. The flames communicated to the tow boat R. E. Lee, also consuming her. She was valued at \$20,000; no insurance. The Taylor had seven hundred tons of commissary stores for Nashville, which is estimated at \$40,000 loss to the Government.

Among the passengers who sailed from Halifax in the Arabia for Boston was Capt. M. D. Field and Messrs. Carlo Pierce and John E. M. Gillay of Boston, who made various explorations of the gold districts in the British provinces. They have with them over \$20,000 in gold, the product of the mines in the vicinity of Halifax for the past fortnight. The excitement in consequence of the recent discoveries in gold is increasing, and bids fair to rival the Colorado and California gold fever.

A Washington dispatch to a New York paper says:—"A delegation from the Bank of Commerce is here successfully urging such modification of the National Bank law as will let that institution in with its immense capital to do business under its provisions. They give an elegant entertainment to-night, at which Messrs. Chase and McCullough, Senators Fessenden, Sherman, Hale and Anthony, and Representatives Ganson, Hooper, Frank, Kasson, Clark and Pruyn are present."

The Washington correspondent of the New York Herald states that rumors of changes in the command of the Army of the Potomac are quite numerous in the camps. Some say that General Hunter is to succeed General Meade. Others surmise that General Thomas is to be the new commander.

Orders have been issued prohibiting, hereafter, the publication of the names of any parties sent to the Old Capitol prison.

FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, January 30.—The bombardment of Sumter ceased at dark last night. One hundred and fifty shells were thrown, of which one hundred and twenty-nine struck.—It was renewed this morning with 80, 100, and a 200-pounder Parrott, and a 10-inch Columbiad. The flagstaff was shot down yesterday, but was soon replaced by the garrison. Under a rapid and accurate fire, the men repeatedly waved the flag in the face of the enemy, and waved their hats in triumph after hoisting the flag. The bombardment has continued all day. The fire was mostly directed against the western wall. There were only three persons wounded since the bombardment commenced.

CHARLESTON, January 31.—The enemy keeps up the bombardment of Sumter by day, but ceases at night. No damage of consequence has been done the fort.

The fire upon the city was renewed at 9 o'clock on Saturday night—the shots averaging one every ten minutes; those on the fort, one every five minutes.

NEW YORK, February 5.—The gunboat Flambeau, from off Charleston on the night of the 1st, arrived this evening. She has fifty discharged seamen on board. General Gilmore keeps up a slow but regular firing on Charleston, averaging three shells every five minutes.—The Rebels have mounted five guns in Sumter, piled up sand bags, and cut ravines through the rubbish. General Gilmore keeps a good surveillance over it, though its garrison is enabled to do but little. The navy is still quietly picketing the harbor. The attempt to raise the Weehawken will probably prove a failure. Charleston does not yet show many marks of our fire.

Agas, the Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun says: "It seems that there are but few republicans in the House who are not for a 'general ouster' of the people of the south from their property, and hence their almost unanimous action against the resolution of Congress, the passage of which the President made a condition precedent to his signing the confiscation bill. It is impossible that this legislative war can be made against the President by the republicans in Congress without preventing his re-nomination by his party, unless indeed he shall recede from his former view. That he will not do that, appears pretty evident from the carefully prepared speech read by Mr. Blair to-day, so strongly antagonizing the radical position assumed by Mr. Stevens and others. Mr. Blair suggested, what is canvassed in diplomatic and other high circles that the doctrine that the South is outside of the constitution and laws, and is to be treated as a foreign nation under the laws of war, is conclusive reason that foreign nations should recognize its independence. He attributed to those who were supporting the measure before the House a design of choking off the President from a re-nomination for the benefit of a rival, and of seizing upon the inheritances of the Southern people. The dogmas of the radicals were unconstitutional and inhuman."

Two steamers, the Pet and Hercules, have run the blockade into Wilmington.